

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00170 161407Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3747

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DAILYNEWS ON "US INTERVENTION"

THE JANUARY 15 DAILYNEWS EDITORIAL IS REPEATED IN  
ITS ENTIRETY FOR THE PARANOID, BUT NOT IMPLAUSIBLE TO THEM,  
VIEW IT HOLDS ON THE QUESTION OF THE POSITION OF  
MINI-STATES' RELATIONS WITH THE US.

" US INTERVENTION

IN A RECENT STATEMENT, US SECRETARY OF DEFENCE JAMES SCHLESINGER  
DECLARED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC MIGHT DEMAND MILITARY INTER-  
VENTION IF THE ARAB STATES CARRIED THEIR OIL EMBARGO TOO FAR.  
AND WHILE WE MAY BE INCLINED TO DOUBT HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE  
WISHES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, STILL, SCHLESINGER IS HEAD OF ONE  
OF THE MOST IMPORTANT US EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND HIS STATEMENT  
MUST BE TREATED SERIOUSLY.

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME NOW THAT US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE  
RESORTED TO SUCH OPEN THREATS. IN FACT, SINCE THE 'BIG-STICK'

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PAGE 02 KINGST 00170 161407Z

DIPLOMACY OF FORMER PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT, IT HAS BEEN THE  
POLICY OF US PRESIDENTS AND OFFICIALS TO AT LEAST TRY AND

APPEAR AS IF THEY HAD ABSOLUTE RIGHT ON THEIR SIDE.

SINCE WORLD WAR II, MILITARY INTERVENTION HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN  
IN THE NAME OF THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM, OR TO PROTECT THE LIVES  
AND PROPERTY OF US CITIZENS. SO WHY THIS RESORT NOW TO OPEN THREATS?  
AND WHAT MAKES THIS ALL THE MORE INTERESTING ARE

THREE SETS OF FACTS CONCERNING THE CONTEMPORARY US SITUATION

AT THE TOP OF THE LIST IS THE FACT THAT FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THEIR DISLIKE FOR US MILITARY  
ACTIVITIES. THEY NO LONGER SEEMED TO BE ROUSED BY THE COMMUNIST  
BOGEY. AND WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE SAYING IS LEAVE  
OTHER PEOPLE TO FIGHT THEIR OWN BATTLES. THEY DON'T SEEM TO CARE  
WHETHER OTHER PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE UNDER "DEMOCRACY" OR NOT. AND  
SINCE WATERGATE, THERE IS A SINCERE DOUBT WHETHER THE US BRAND  
IS EVEN WORTH EXPORTING.

THE SECOND FACT IS WHICH STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB, IS THAT  
THE US OF ALL NATIONS STANDS TO LESE LEAST BY THE OIL CRISIS. ITS  
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAS NOT BEEN HURT, AND IT HAS THE TIME AND  
MONEY TO PRODUCE OTHER ENERGY SOURCES.

BUT IT IS THE THIRD FACT WHICH MAKES THIS MATTER MOST INTERESTING.  
FOR IF ANYTHING CAN BE SAID ABOUT THE US AT THE PRESENT  
TIME, IT IS THAT THAT NATION IS NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO THROW  
ITS WEIGHT AROUND THE WORLD. IT IS NO LONGER THE WORLD'S ONLY  
FIRST-RATE MILITARY POWER, AND WHERE ECONOMICS IS CONCERNED THERE  
IS MORE THAN ONE RIVAL ON THE SCENE.

AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE DAYS ARE GONE WHEN THE US COULD OBTAIN  
INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AT THE CHEAPEST POSSIBLE PRICES. ANY  
INTERVENTION THEN, WOULD BRING IT INTO OPEN CONFLICT WITH THE  
SOVIET UNION WHO HAS CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF THE ARABS ALL  
ALONG.

BUT IF MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THAT AREA IS OUT OF THE QUESTION,  
WE ARE STILL LEFT WITH THE QUESTION AS TO WHY SCHLESINGER MADE THIS  
OBVIOUSLY PROVOCATIVE REMARK. AND THE ONLY REASONABLE ANSWER IS  
THAT IT WAS NOT MEANT FOR THE ARABS AT ALL. IT WAS MEANT AS A  
WARNING TO THOSE SMALLER NATIONS WHO PRESENTLY SUPPLY THE US WITH  
RAW MATERIALS AND WHO ARE NOT PRESENTLY PROTECTED BY SOME OPPOSING  
MILITARY ALLIANCE, NOT TO PLAN ANY SIMILAR PRICE HIKE FOR  
THEIR PRIMARY COMMODITIES.

IF THIS IS SO, THEN WE IN JAMAICA CAN CONSIDER OURSELVES  
TO HAVE BEEN WARNED. AND BECAUSE OUR PRIME MINISTER HAS QUITE  
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PAGE 03 KINGST 00170 161407Z

CORRECTLY SEEN THAT THE ONLY WAY TO COMBAT THE OIL PRICE IS TO  
REGULATE THE PRICES OF OUR BANANAS, SUGAR AND BAUXITE, WE MUST  
BE CAREFUL TO BEAR SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT IN MIND. UNQUOTE.

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